[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

(*a*) whether they are aware that the rules regulating the construction of school buildings are not in accordance with those in force in the advanced countries of the West; and

(*b*) whether, in view of the above fact, they would appoint a small committee to revise those rules in accordance with the needs and requirements of this country?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) They are aware that there are some differences in the rules due to difference in conditions.

(*b*) In the opinion of the Government, the existing rules are not unsuited to the requirements of the country and there is no need for the appointment of a committee to revise the rules.

Smuggling through the Arukutty Chowkey.

6. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) whether it is a fact that a consignment of about 40 casks of cocoanut oil valued at Rs. 15,000, which was attempted to be smuggled through the Arukutty chowkey, was seized by the Inspector and that the Excise Commissioner ordered the immediate release of the same;

(2) whether the alleged action of the Excise Commissioner was in accordance with the Customs Regulation;

(3) whether any enquiry was held, and, if so, with what result;

(4) what the nature of the enquiry was and who held it;

(5) how the case was finally decided; and

(6) whether any fine was imposed, and, if so, whether it has been recovered?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to place the papers connected with the above case on the table?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A report on the subject has been received from the Excise Commissioner and it is under the consideration of Government.

Smuggling of Oil.

7. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Is it a fact that a large consignment of oil was seized at the Arukutty chowkey recently, that the Assistant Commissioner drew up a *mahazar*, and that, before the report reached the Excise Commissioner, the latter ordered the release of the consignment?

(*b*) If so, did the Excise Commissioner act in conformity with the Regulation in having ordered the release?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(c) Does not the Regulation, as it stands, require that the whole consignment should be confiscated and the party charged before a Magistrate?

(d) What was the total value of the consignment and was not this amount lost to Government by the order of release?

(e) Is it a fact that, on making enquiries at Alleppey, it has been brought to light that oil has been systematically smuggled by a certain firm, during the last two years, by which Government have suffered very great loss?

(f) If the above is true, what action have the Government taken on these matters?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 6.

State Life Insurance.

8. MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of making the State Life Insurance compulsory for Government employees?

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): The State Life Insurance Scheme was first introduced in the year 1073. It was optional in the case of all Government servants who entered the State service prior to the 1st Makaram, 1073, and compulsory in the case of all Government servants who entered the pensionable service in the State after that date, provided that the age of the officer did not exceed 45 years or his monthly salary was not below Rs. 10. As several representations were received through the heads of departments stating that compulsory insurance worked real hardship on low-paid servants, Government had to revise their order in 1084 and make the scheme optional. The G. O. declaring insurance optional is published in the Government *Almanac and Directory* as a preface to the rules. Government do not therefore propose to make it compulsory again.

Arayalam Payment of Kist.

9. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that the months of Tulam and Vrischikam fixed for the *arayalam* payment of kist are unsuited to the tax-payers, and particularly to those of the Onattukara region?

(b) Are the Government aware that the amounts payable during these months are mostly realised only in Makaram?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to fix Dhanu and Makaram for the above purpose?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (a) to (c) On receipt of the same interpellation from the member prior to the session of the Council in Karkadakam, 1098, the question of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly